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tion is done. The secret of good preparations is to let the lichtgrün act just long enough to extract the excess of safranin. A little practice will enable one to tell from the general appearance of the slide held up to the light when to stop. Usually for thin sections 30 seconds is enough. It is well to move the slide about all the time it is in the lichtgrün.

The excess of lichtgrün is hastily washed off in 95% alcohol after which the slide is immersed for a second in absolute alcohol and then transferred to clove oil for one or two minutes. Before mounting the excess of clove oil may be removed by immersion in xylol. Euparal may be used as the mounting medium after xylol.

Safranin stains chromosomes and chromatin elements a deep red for which the light green background gives an excellent contrast. Many object to lichtgrün because it is not permanent. However, I have had preparations retain their brilliancy for two years or more and that certainly is long enough for most lines of work.

Hæmatoxylin-Orange G Stain for Embryos.—To those interested in a satisfactory double stain for vertebrate embryos, attention is called to the method published by J. T. Morris in the *Anatomical Record*, Vol. 3, 1909, under the title "A Note on Orange G counterstaining suggesting a useful method in the handling of embryonic tissue." I have found the method extremely satisfactory in staining serial sections of human embryos. It was surprising to find that it stained chromosomes in dividing cells with all the clear-cut detail of iron-alumhæmatoxylin.

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METHOD OF PREPARING FLY'S TONGUE AS MICROSCOPIC OBJECT.*

A fly's tongue when properly prepared and mounted makes a very beautiful object for the microscope, but to the novice it has been more or less a difficult task. With the following suggestions the worst part of the preparation is overcome with much ease, that is, making the lobes of the tongue lie flat and evenly spread out.

We have all noticed that when the fly places his tongue on a flat surface it spreads out the lobes in a way we would best

* Presented before State Micr. Soc. of Ill., Feb. 11, 1915.

have it on our finished mount, so we will proceed to catch it in this position.

Have ready two glass slips and place one of them at the edge of a table where the operation is to take place. Take a fly between the thumb and finger of the left hand and the other glass slip in the right hand, hold the fly's head at the edge of the glass slip on the table and he will lay his tongue out flat on the glass. When all is right, place the slip that is in the hand on top of the tongue with enough pressure to hold it and cut off the tongue close to the head. A patent clothes-pin or elastic band may be used to hold the two glass slips together till the specimen is further treated.

The slips with the tongue clamped between them at one end are next put in a small dish in which some turpentine has been placed and is allowed to remain in the turpentine bath for five hours. It may then be taken out and will be found to be quite hard and flat, with all the beautiful colorings retained. The tongue may now be mounted with great ease in turpentine balsam or benzole balsam. Fly's feet may be prepared in the same manner.

Students who have tried in vain to make a good mount of this common object will smile when they find with what ease this seemingly difficult feat may be accomplished.

OLIVER KENDALL, JR.

METHOD OF COLLECTING DIATOMS FROM SURFACE OF MUD.

To the amateur collector of diatoms, the greatest difficulty has been to gather them free from excess of sand and foreign particles. The following method will be found to be of great help in this respect, especially on the shores of tide water, and the method requires that the surface of the mud be uncovered by the tide. The spot for working is found by the presence of a brownish colored film generally in streaks or patches on the mud surface.

It has been found that by removing the film of diatoms with a spoon large quantities of sand and mud are taken up at the same time making its removal difficult in the cleaning process.

The collector is to provide himself with several squares of well washed cotton cloth, about the size of a handkerchief, and be at the ground at low tide. Take a square of cloth and carefully